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LOUIS AZRAEL SAYS:

A City Has All Sorts of Things

GOOD THINGS . . .

It's years, years, years since Baltimore's major hotels have had this sort of spring.

Last week the Methodists' convention and the On Leong Merchants Association convention (which took 200 rooms) had hotels well filled. From this week on through May, conventions or other gatherings of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Gardens Clubs of America, the AFL-CIO, the Public Health Service and the Parent-Teachers Association and several others will keep the hostelries busy.

AZRAEL

In early June the Optimists International convention, a big one, comes.

"But don't convey the impression that other people won't be able to get in," a hotel man cautioned. "Even if the hotel they first come to is filled we can almost always arrange another for them."

SAD THING . . .

A real estate man who operates chiefly in an old residential section of Baltimore reports that during the last two weeks he has had an amazing number of requests to sell owner-occupied homes.

"It's because of the talk about a big tax rate boost," he explained.

"For people with fixed incomes, or modest incomes, the tax load has been getting to be more and more of a hardship each year. Facing another boost, much bigger than usual, they just can't afford to hang on."

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THE PAGE OPPOSITE
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SILLY THING . . .

Among Maryland's Congressional candidates is one Patrick F. X. McGucken, of Emmitsburg.

The cards he is distributing proclaim that he is conducting "The Poor Boy Campaign." And it bears this bit of undeathless poetry . . .

"When you look at me and blush with shame,
"Because you remember the face but not the name,
"Stand back. Keep lookin'. Then say, 'Vot's cookin', McGookin?'" ....

GOOD THING . . .

Most definitely, the new play at Center Stage!

In the first place, the play itself—"The Chinese Wall"—is ingenious, imaginative and intelligent despite occasional use of pompous language to express cliche ideas. Though a serious play, it is infused with fun.

Furthermore, the setting, staging, and costumes are gay, colorful, superbly suited to the action.

And the acting, with no exception, is excellent . . . with John Shuck as the old Chinese emperor being most excellent.

UNUSUAL THING . . .

The lawsuit that comes up Thursday in Federal Court.

A man filed a $110,000 slander suit against another man whom he blamed for spreading reports that he was a Communist agent.

The defendant answered by presenting a document stating that he worked for the Central Intelligence Agency and that whatever statements he had made about the plaintiff were in the course of his CIA duty. Therefore, he argued, he couldn't be sued for the statements, whether they were true or not.

Judge Roszel C. Thomsen is demanding more information. He wants to know by witnesses, not merely by a document, that the defendant worked for the CIA, and perhaps that the CIA really ordered him to make whatever statements he made.

The judge may then have to decide if slander, when officially authorized by a government agency, leaves the slanderer immune from penalties.

INTERESTING THING . . .

Rear-Admiral Kenmore M. McManes, of Washington, will be the speaker at the Flag House Association dinner at the Sheraton-Belvedere next Thursday. He has had a distinguished career in the Navy but also . . .

When Hawaii became a state, he is the man who designed the arrangement of stars on the U. S. flag to include a 49th.

And when Alaska was admitted, Admiral McManes rearranged the stars to include a 50th.

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